

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE JUDICIARY TO EXPEDITE THE SELECTION OF THE SITE FOR
THE KONA JUDICIARY COMPLEX AND CONSIDER LA'I'OPUA AS A
POTENTIAL SITE FOR THE COMPLEX.

1 WHEREAS, the island of Hawai'i is the island with the second
2 largest population in the State, and specifically the County of
3 Hawai'i has had the highest population growth rate in the State
4 in the past decade; and
5

6 WHEREAS, according to the County of Hawai'i 2005 General
7 Plan, the population of North and South Kona represents
8 approximately 25 percent of the entire county population, which
9 is projected to steadily increase through 2020 with a 52.5
10 percent increase from the 2000 census; and
11

12 WHEREAS, court facilities in the West Hawai'i area of the
13 County of Hawai'i, specifically the Kona region, are grossly
14 inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the growing
15 West Hawai'i population; and
16

17 WHEREAS, major court operations are presently scattered
18 throughout the Kona area at separate facilities, none of which
19 were originally designed for use as a court, which has resulted
20 in operational deficiencies, greater security risks, and public
21 inconvenience; and
22

23 WHEREAS, none of the West Hawai'i courtrooms meet the
24 requirements of modern courtroom design; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the various buildings serving as court facilities
27 in West Hawai'i lack appropriate or otherwise have inappropriate
28 holding facilities for defendants making court appearances,
29 resulting in overcrowded holding cells where defendants share
30 common areas with court personnel and the general public; and
31

32 WHEREAS, court facilities in West Hawai'i also suffer from
33 inadequate parking, storage space, rodent infestation, and



1 compliance with Adults with Disabilities Act access
2 requirements; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Third Circuit Court lacks a juvenile detention
5 center; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the aforementioned circumstances necessitate
8 immediate design and construction of a new court complex for the
9 Kona area; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Judiciary is currently engaged in the site
12 selection process for the Kona Judiciary Complex, with the final
13 decision to be made by the Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme
14 Court; now, therefore,

15
16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
18 that the Judiciary is urged to expedite the selection of the
19 site for the Kona Judiciary Complex; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is urged to
22 consider the site known as La'i'Opua, tax map key number 3-7-4-
23 021:003, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of
24 Hawaiian Home Lands, as a potential site for the Kona Judiciary
25 Complex; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
28 Lands is urged to cooperate with the Judiciary for purposes of
29 selecting a site for the Kona Judiciary Complex; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawai'i
33 Supreme Court and the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes
34 Commission.

35
36
37

OFFERED BY:

Rosely H. Bah

Madame Jean

Gilene Kabebe

Donna [unclear]

Tokai [unclear]

